



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2003

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

**SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED TO 157 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
IMPORTATION OF COCAINE AND POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

(DEL RIO, TEXAS) U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that **MANUEL ROLANDO DELUNA**, a San Antonio resident and Eagle Pass native, was sentenced to 157 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice for importation of cocaine and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Because **DELUNA** had a prior 1999 federal drug conviction for possession of more than 1,000 kilograms of Marihuana, Judge Justice imposed an additional sentence of 30 months for a combined sentence of 187 months in federal prison.

On June 2, 2002, **DELUNA** arrived from Mexico at the Eagle Pass, Texas, Port of Entry. A U.S. Customs Inspector utilized a density measuring device on the rear bumper of **DELUNA's** vehicle which showed an abnormally high reading. Upon further inspection, a canine alerted Customs officials to the presence of narcotics in **DELUNA's** vehicle. After a search of the defendant's vehicle, 12 packages containing 14 kilograms of cocaine was found in the vehicle's bumper. The cocaine had a street value of approximately \$500,000.

On September 12, 2002, a federal jury convicted **DELUNA** of two counts, the importation of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

"I believe this sentence sends a strong message to drug traffickers," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton. "The U.S. Attorney's office is committed to prosecuting those individuals who attempt to smuggle drugs into the United States at our border crossings."

This case was investigated by U.S. Customs and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Russell M. Soloway.

#####